

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A resource management apparatus for a cellular communication system; comprising

a resource controller operable to allocate a radio resource to a subscriber unit in response to an operator identity associated with a service of the subscriber unit,

wherein the resource controller is operable to allocate a first radio resource resulting in a first quality of service if the operator corresponds to a cellular communication system operator such that and a second radio resource resulting in a different quality of service if the operator identity corresponds to a Mobile Virtual Network Operator ~~is achieved for different operators.~~

2. (original) The resource management apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cellular communication system has a common radio access network resource divided into a first partition for a first operator and a second partition for a second operator, and the resource controller is operable to allocate resource from the first partition if the operator identity corresponds to the first operator and from the second partition if the operator identity corresponds to the second operator.

3. (currently amended) The resource management apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the resource ~~management~~ controller comprises:

control means for independently controlling at least one quality of service parameter associated with the first partition of the common radio access network resource in response to a first preference parameter of the first operator, and at least one quality of service parameter associated with the second partition of the common radio access network resource in response to a second preference parameter of the second operator.

4. (canceled).

5. (previously presented) The resource management apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the control means comprise a first quality of service controller for independently controlling the at least one quality of service parameter associated with the first partition and a second quality of service controller for independently controlling the at least one quality of service parameter associated with the second partition.

6 - 10. (canceled).

11. (previously presented) The resource management apparatus as claimed in claim 5 wherein the first quality of service controller comprises a first power control controller for controlling transmit powers associated with the first partition and the second quality of service controller comprises a second power control controller for controlling transmit powers associated with the second partition.

12. (previously presented) The resource management apparatus as claimed in claim 3 wherein the control means is operable to control the at least one quality of service parameter associated with the first partition and the at least one quality of service parameter associated with the second partition in response to at least one common parameter for the first and second partition.

13 - 14. (canceled)

15. (previously presented) The resource management apparatus as claimed in claim 2 wherein the resource management apparatus comprises means for dynamically varying the partitioning of resource into said first and second partition.

16. (original) The resource management apparatus as claimed in claim 15 wherein the partitioning of resource into the first and second partition is in response to a resource usage in said first and second partition.

17. (canceled).

18. (previously presented) The resource management apparatus as claimed in claim 2 wherein both the first and second partition comprises resource associated with equipment shared between the first and second operator.

19 - 22. (canceled).

23. (original) A cellular communication system as claimed in claim 22 further comprising means for associating the operator identity to a service of a subscriber unit when initiating the service.

24. (canceled).

25. (currently amended) A method of resource management in a cellular communication system; the method comprising the steps of:

allocating a radio resource to a subscriber unit in response to an operator identity associated with a service of the subscriber unit, and

wherein the step of allocating comprises allocating a first radio resource resulting in a first quality of service if the operator corresponds to a cellular communication system operator and a second radio resource resulting in a different quality of service if the operator identity corresponds to a Mobile Virtual Network Operator.

26. (original) A method of resource management as claimed in claim 25 wherein the cellular communication system has a common radio access network resource divided into a first partition for a first operator and a second partition for a second operator and the step of allocating a radio resource comprises allocating resource from the first partition if the operator identity corresponds to the first operator and from the second partition if the operator identity corresponds to the second operator.

27. (original) A method of resource management as claimed in claim 26 wherein the step of allocating a radio resource comprises independently controlling at least one quality of service parameter associated with the first partition of the common radio access network resource in response to a first preference parameter of the first operator, and at least one quality of service parameter associated with the second partition of the common radio access network resource in response to a second preference parameter of the second operator.